

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 121355Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3529

INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

CINCEUR

CSAF WASHDC

S E C R E T ANKARA 3760

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: FY-76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL

REF: STATE 110965 (DTG 072210Z MAY 76)

1. FATE OF FISCAL YEAR 76 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION IS BECOMING FOCUS OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN HERE BECAUSE FMS RELIEF PROVIDED UNDER OCTOBER 2 LEGISLATION IS RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING. IN FACT, RELIANCE ON CRA FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE MONTHS WOULD EXHAUST FMS RESOURCES, AND TGS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS HAS TO DATE ESCHEWED COMMERCIAL PURCHASES.

2. THE TURKISH AIR FORCE (TUAF), AS THE PRIME CONSUMER OF FMS, IS OF COURSE THE HARDEST HIT OF THE SERVICES. SINCE P.L. 94-104 PERMITTED RESUMPTION OF DELIVERIES TO THE AIR FORCE OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH IN-BEING FMS CASES, TUAF HAS REQUISITIONED ABOUT \$6.3 MILLION WORTH OF SPARES AGAINST OPEN-END FMS SPARES CASES, LEAVING ABOUT \$1.4 MILLION FMS AUTHORITY FOR F-4E SPARES AND ONLY \$367,000 FOR ALL OTHER AIRCRAFT SPARES. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH TUAF HAS BEEN ABLE TO REQUISITION CRITICAL AIRCRAFT SPARES,

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DUE TO SUPPLY LEAD TIMES THE NUMBER OF TACTICAL FIGHTER

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED FOR LACK OF PARTS HAS REMAINED HIGH AND IS NOW BEGINNING TO INCREASE. CURRENTLY, ABOUT 85 (OR 23 PERCENT) OF 360 U.S. SUPPORTED TUAFF TACTICAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ARE GROUNDED. (STATUS OF 23 ITALIAN SUPPLIED F-104S AIRCRAFT UNKNOWN.) MANY OF THE GROUNDED AIRCRAFT ARE IN NEED OF 10 OR MORE CRITICAL PARTS WITH SEVERAL NEEDING OVER 30. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY MID/LATE JULY 1976, TUAFF WILL HAVE EXHAUSTED REMAINING FMS SPARES FUNDS AND WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO OBTAIN AIRCRAFT SPARES THROUGH FMS.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE AIRCRAFT SPARES PROBLEM DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE UNDERSTAND IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO MEET THE DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR NEW F-4ES CONTAINED IN THE APRIL 7 AND 13 EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE TO THE DCA UNLESS NEW FMS AUTHORITY BECOMES AVAILABLE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, MCDONNELL DOUGLAS IS KEEPING THE F-4E PRODUCTION LINE OPEN AT ITS EXPENSE THROUGH JUNE 30 SOLELY IN ANTICIPATION OF A TUAFF F/RF-4E FMS PURCHASE BEING CONSUMMATED BEFORE THAT DATE. IF A CASE CANNOT BE EXECUTED BEFORE 1 JULY 1976 AND A PRODUCTION LINE GAP OCCURS, IT APPEARS THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DELIVER THE FIRST AIRCRAFT 18 MONTHS AFTER THE DCA IS APPROVED AS SPECIFIED IN THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES. MOREOVER, THE DRAMATIC PRICE INCREASE RESULTING FROM A GAP PROBABLY WOULD FORECLOSE THE PURCHASE.

4. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS ASULA TOLD EMBASSY MUTUAL SECURITY AFFAIRS COUNSELOR ON MAY 11 THAT TURKISH GENERAL STAFF PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON OBTAINING \$125 MILLION CREDIT IN FISCAL YEAR 76 BILL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE THESE FUNDS WERE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO TIDE TURKISH ARMED FORCES OVER UNTIL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH HE SAID ANY NEW LEGISLATION WOULD BE BETTER THAN CRA, ASULA EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS OVER REPORTED INTENTIONS OF SOME CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO COMBINE FY-76 AND FY-77 AUTHORIZATIONS.

5. COMMENT: ASULA HAS, WE BELIEVE, VALID POLITICAL REASONS FOR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE COMBINED AUTHORIZATION FOR FY-76 AND 77. TURKS AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL HERE HAD
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HOPED TO SEE A FURTHER RELAXATION OF CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS WITH EACH NEW AUTHORIZATION, WHICH WOULD PROGRESSIVELY REDUCE POLITICAL PRESSURES.
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